

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-8 are pending and remain unchanged.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 4 are allowed and remain unchanged. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,570,108 to McLaughlin et al. (hereinafter, “McLaughlin”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

McLaughlin describes a system to calibrate and control a display screen with user selectable controls displayed on the display screen. The system enables a user to lock in a selected set of display parameters so that the parameters can not be easily, or inadvertently, changed (col. 7, lines 31-36). Display parameters are selected with configuration controls and locked in when activating locking software (col. 7, lines 37-65). McLaughlin also describes that the locking software periodically polls the current status of the display and corrects any display parameter having a value that differs from a desired value (col. 8, lines 10-21).

The present Application describes a data structure that includes a provision for aggregating a group of controls, referred to as a control group, and for defining the control group as active or inactive (*Specification* p.10, lines 16-22). A control

1 group identifier designates which control group a particular control belongs to
2 when each particular control is identified in the data structure (*Specification* p.16,
3 lines 7-9). This provides a convenient method to activate or deactivate a group of
4 the controls registered in the data structure (*Specification* p.19, lines 6-16).

5

6 The Office recognizes that McLaughlin does not disclose:

- 7 • directing the activation of controls of a control group by storing an
8 active value in a single status indicator (*Office Action* dated June 20,
9 2001 p.3);
- 10 • a control grouping identifier contained within memory (*Office Action*
11 p.4);
- 12 • a control grouping identifier having an active state and an inactive state
13 (*Office Action* p.4); or
- 14 • the control grouping identifier representing controls of a control
15 grouping (*Office Action* p.4).

16

17 Even though the Office has recognized that McLaughlin does not disclose
18 elements positively recited in claims 1, 3, and/or 8, the Office continues to reject
19 these claims without citing any other references to overcome the deficiencies of
20 McLaughlin. For this reason, claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are allowable and Applicant
21 respectfully requests that the §103 rejection be withdrawn.

1 **Claim 1** recites a method of “identifying a control group, the control group
2 being comprised of at least two controls associated in a data structure” and
3 “representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data structure”.

4 McLaughlin makes no reference to representing a control group with a
5 single status indicator in a data structure. McLaughlin does not teach or suggest
6 any correlation between the configuration controls, or icons, and a memory or
7 storage device, other than to indicate that parameter and calibration data is stored
8 as separately accessible files (col. 14).

9 The Office states that McLaughlin teaches associating a group of controls
10 and polling the display status to identify user commands. Based on this, the Office
11 suggests that to poll the display status implies the activation/deactivation of
12 controls, as a group or individually (*Office Action* p.3). Applicant respectfully
13 disagrees with this suggestion of obviousness.

14 McLaughlin describes selecting a configuration control (48) to activate
15 controls (49) and (50) (Fig. 4; col. 7, lines 39-42). The Office suggests that these
16 controls are associated in a data structure, represented with a single status
17 indicator, and activated as a control group (*Office Action* p.3). Applicant disagrees
18 with this inference of McLaughlin. It is possible that software periodically polls to
19 determine the activation status of configuration control (48), and upon determining
20 that configuration control (48) has been selected, sequentially activates controls
21 (49) and (50). Absent any such explanation, however, it should not be inferred by
22 the Office as to how controls (49) and (50) might be activated in response to
23 configuration control (48) being selected.

24 McLaughlin says nothing about how the configuration controls might be
25 associated in a data structure. Furthermore, McLaughlin describes that polling the

1 display status is for the purpose of correcting any display parameter or setting
2 having a value that differs from a desired value (col. 8, lines 10-21). Any
3 activation or deactivation of the controls is not described as being related to
4 polling the display status, as the Office suggests, and there is no indication in
5 McLaughlin, implied or otherwise, supporting a conclusion that it is obvious how
6 the controls might be stored or activated.

7 Claim 1 also recites “directing the activation of the controls of the control
8 group by storing an active value in the single status indicator.” The Office
9 recognizes that McLaughlin does not disclose group activation of controls of a
10 control group by storing an active value in a single status indicator (*Office Action*
11 dated June 20, 2001 p.3). Furthermore, the Office has not cited any other
12 references to overcome this deficiency of McLaughlin.

13 Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over McLaughlin and Applicant
14 respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

15
16 **Claim 3** recites an apparatus for activating and deactivating a control
17 grouping comprising “a control grouping identifier contained within the memory,
18 wherein the control grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and
19 wherein the control grouping identifier represents the controls of the control
20 grouping.”

21 The Office recognizes that McLaughlin does not disclose either a control
22 grouping identifier contained within the memory, the identifier having an active
23 state and an inactive state, or that the control grouping identifier represents the
24 controls of the control grouping (*Office Action* p.4). Furthermore, the Office has
25 not cited any other references to overcome these deficiencies of McLaughlin.

1 The Office suggests, however, that it would have been obvious to use
2 McLaughlin because he discloses polling the display status to effect user
3 commands to activate a group of controls (*Office Action* p.4). Applicant
4 respectfully disagrees with this suggestion of obviousness, and that McLaughlin
5 discloses activating a group of controls together.

6 As described above in the response to the rejection of claim 1, polling the
7 display status is for the purpose of correcting any display parameter having a value
8 that differs from a desired value (col. 8, lines 10-21). McLaughlin further
9 describes that control activation can be accomplished by activating / deactivating
10 the locking software (col. 7, lines 49-60). Any activation or deactivation of a
11 control is not related to polling the display status.

12 McLaughlin does not teach “a control grouping identifier contained within
13 memory” that “represents the controls of the control grouping”, as recited in
14 claim 3. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable over McLaughlin, and the §103
15 rejection should be withdrawn.

16
17 Claims 5-7 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 1.

18
19 Claim 8 is allowable by virtue of its dependency upon claim 3.
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
Conclusion

2 Pending claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully
3 requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. If any issues
4 remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact
5 the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

6
7 Respectfully Submitted,

8
9 Dated: Jan. 23, 2002

10 By: 
11 David A. Morasch
12 Reg. No. 42,905
13 (509) 324-9256 x 210
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25